

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Title: UTILITY DISTRIBUTION  
SYSTEM

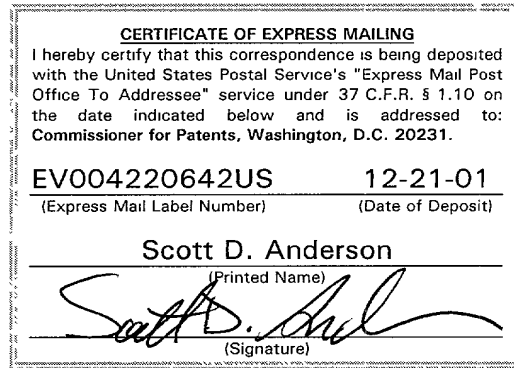
Prior Appl. 09/183,023  
Nos.: 09/887,519

Prior Appl. Filing 10/30/1998;  
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Examiner: To Be Determined

Art Unit: To Be Determined

Commissioner for Patents  
Box PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231



**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Prior to examination of the present Continuing Application, Applicant respectfully requests that the application be amended as follows:

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 1-56 without prejudice.

Please add Claims 57-76 as follows:

57. A system for distributing utilities away from furniture elements carrying the utilities, comprising:

an overhead utility beam moveably attached proximate one end to the furniture;

a utility access extension connected to the beam proximate the other end, the extension having a utility delivery zone thereon, the beam and the extension being configured to supply utilities to the utility delivery zone so that users may gain access to utilities routed through the furniture at a point away from the furniture.

58. The system of Claim 57 wherein the system is adapted for movement along a predefined path to selectively deliver utilities to at least one portion of a work area.

59. The system of Claim 58 wherein the system can be associated with either of a first workstation or a second workstation.

60. The system of Claim 58 wherein the system is movable between a stowed position and a deployed position.

61. The system of Claim 58 wherein the beam is configured for sliding movement along the furniture, and the extension is configured for rolling movement along the floor.

62. The system of Claim 61 wherein the beam is movable on a track system.

63. The system of Claim 62 wherein the track system shown includes a horizontal rail mounted on the furniture.

64. The system of Claim 63 wherein the beam includes a mounting assembly having a slide mechanism engaging the horizontal rail.

65. The system of Claim 61 wherein the extension includes a floor wheel assembly.

66. The system of Claim 65 wherein the floor wheel assembly includes a caster.

67. The system of Claim 57 wherein the beam and the extension are formed of an "L"-shaped frame.

68. The system of Claim 57 further including a retractable partition that is adapted to define a private space when in a withdrawn position.

69. The system of Claim 57 wherein the extension is positioned at a lateral distance outboard of the furniture

70. A floor supported system for distributing utilities away from furniture elements carrying the utilities, comprising:

- a utility delivery zone;
- an overhead utility beam moveably attached proximate one end to the furniture configured to supply utilities to the utility delivery zone so that users may gain access to utilities routed through the furniture at a point away from the furniture; and
- a light fixture mounted on the beam.

71. The system of Claim 70 wherein the extension includes a canopy associated with the light fixtures.

72. The system of Claim 70 further comprising a utility infeed to allow utilities to be supplied to the utility delivery zone.

73. The system of Claim 72 wherein the utility infeed is a flexible conduit within a recess in the top of the furniture.

74. A wall supported system for distributing utilities away from furniture elements carrying the utilities, comprising:

- a utility delivery zone;
- an overhead utility beam moveably attached proximate one end to the furniture configured to supply utilities to the utility delivery zone so that users may gain access to utilities routed through the furniture at a point away from the furniture; and
- a light fixture mounted on the beam.

75. The system of Claim 74 wherein the beam positioned at an elevation above the furniture.

76. The system of Claim 74 wherein the system is adapted for movement along a predefined path to selectively deliver utilities to at least one portion of a work area.

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application. The Applicant expressly withdraws any and all claim amendments and remarks (including remarks directed to or about any cited reference) made in connection with the parent application (Serial No. 09/183,023, and Serial No. 09/887,519), or in connection with any related application. The Applicants does not intend any prior claim amendment or remark in the parent application or any related application to have any effect on the prosecution of scope of any claim in the present application.

The specification of the present divisional application has been revised "for clarity or contextual purposes vis-a-vis the specification originally filed in the prior application[s] in the manner that an applicant may file a substitute specification, see 37 CFR 1.125, or amend the drawings of an application . . . ." See M.P.E.P. § 201.06(c).

No new matter has been added.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

12/21/01

By

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